

Access



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In This Issue:

**50 Essential
Michigan
History
Books** 6

**Ernie
Harwell
Visits the
Library** 10

**Meet the
Mackinac
Island State
Park
Commission** 14

The Michigan eLibrary ... *Virtually Limitless*

by Becky Cawley, Statewide Database Administrator and Randy Dykhuis, Executive Director of Michigan Library Consortium

After much discussion, planning and testing, the Michigan eLibrary (the “new” MeL) is a reality. The Action Team for Library Advancement Statewide (ATLAS) project groups spent a good part of the last year developing recommendations on how best to enhance the resources the state provides for all libraries and their users.

Operating under the mission that “Michigan’s virtual library will link all Michigan residents to the information they need when they need it, where they need it and in the format they desire,” the ATLAS team’s findings have helped make MeL a user-friendly, 24-hour-accessible environment. The first round of MeL enhancements (including round-the-clock access with a driver’s license or state ID) are complete, with more planned for coming months.

The growing Michigan virtual library has a familiar name (MeL) with a new meaning (Michigan eLibrary) and a familiar logo and Web address: www.mel.org. What users see when they visit mel.org will change as the virtual library grows and as components are added.

This virtual library will not and cannot replace the excellent services of Michigan’s local public, school, academic and special libraries. Instead it will enhance these services and provide a core set of resources available everywhere in the state. The virtual library will ultimately include:

MeL Internet - “Best of the Internet” selected by librarians

MeL Electronic magazines, ebooks and more - Commercial resources purchased for Michigan residents by the Library of Michigan

MeL Lending Library - Books and more from Michigan libraries to Michigan residents

MeL Archives - Local Michigan resources digitized and made available on the web

In the future Michigan residents will be able to get to the virtual library from a one stop “portal” that will allow the user to search any or all of these components and retrieve or request information materials no matter where the information resides.

New look

MeL’s first new look came in mid-June 2002. The new look presents MeL as part of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) and michigan.gov, the state’s integrated web site.

New features for MeL Internet

MeL Internet topics now include subheadings to make for easier browsing. The new MeL also has two news sections: “Timely Topics” and a special topics collection area. MeL’s “Timely Topics” will feature news from the MeL education, Michigan government, and science areas. Also included here are some of the “hot topics” related to health, taxes, and current events that selectors previously announced only on library mailing lists. MeL’s new special topic collections, starting with “Summer time fun” to be followed by “Back to school” will change quarterly and will feature MeL resources related to a high interest seasonal subject.

Continued on page 5



Notes from the State Librarian



In place of her regular column, State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau would like to share answers to some of the questions that have been asked about the new driver's license access to MeL databases:

Do we have to change anything about how users get in to databases in our library?

No all of the methods you have used in the past will still work: IP, web pages, OPACs, or ID's and passwords handed out at the library. This is just one more option you can provide for your customers.

How can children get access to databases?

Children may use their parent's license number, or parents may want to get a state ID for their children. There is no age requirement to get a state ID.

How do people get state ID's?

These are available from any Secretary of State office; however, an individual cannot have both a state ID and a driver's license. There is no age requirement, but you must prove you are a Michigan resident. ID's cost \$7 and are valid for four years. There is no charge for individuals age 65 and over or for those who are blind. For more details including required documentation see <http://www.michigan.gov/sos>.

What about user privacy and cookies?

The method we are using to verify that the user is a Michigan resident does not give us access to any personal or driving record information. The log-on numbers are not captured or stored. Because only session cookies are used and disappear once a user closes the browser what the user looks at is not tracked or stored.

Are there any state-funded databases people cannot use from home?

Yes, Gale's AncestryPlus is not available for remote access of any kind.

Are people going to use the new MeL rather than come to the library?

MeL is simply an enhancement to the quality service already provided by Michigan libraries. The purpose of the new authentication is to enhance local service by providing a 24/7/365 access point to the MeL resources. Rather than replace libraries, MeL will draw attention to the wonderful resources available locally through our libraries!

Librarians Meet with Members of Congress

Deputy State Librarian Jo Budler and librarians from around the state traveled to Washington, D.C., May 6 and 7 for National Library Legislative Day, sponsored by the District of Columbia Library Association and the American Library Association. The group attended informational sessions on such topics as intellectual property, appropriations lobbying, LSTA, Internet/telecommunications and government information. They then visited nearly every member of Michigan's Congressional delegation, sharing information about issues affecting libraries.



Seated (left to right) Shirley Bruursema, Phyllis Jose, Christine Lind-Hage, Tom Genson, Barbara Billerbeck, Roger Mendel, Susan Spaniol, Michael Deller. Standing (left to right) Roger Ashley, Elaine Didier, Stephen Kershner, Dave Simmons.



Back row (left to right): Michael Deller, Stephen Kershner, Susan Spaniol, Barbara Billerbeck. Front row: (left to right) Christine Lind-Hage, Roger Mendel, Shirley Bruursema, Jennifer Ray, Jo Budler



Victory! Genealogy Research and the U.S. Military

by Kris Rzepczynski, Reference Librarian

Do you feel like Napoleon at Waterloo with your family history research? Before sending up the white flag in surrender, remember that military records can provide invaluable personal information about both veterans and their families. The Library of Michigan maintains a large collection of military records for the many researchers who have family members that served in the United States military.

When beginning your military research, several introductory questions will help to focus and narrow your search. When did your ancestors serve, and from what state? Were they enlisted men or officers? What rank did they attain? When did they leave the service? Answers to these fundamental questions will direct you to specific resources and help save valuable research time.

The types of military records available at the Library include muster rolls, enlistment registers, pension applications, regimental histories, ships' registers, service records, casualty lists, veterans' censuses and more. Generally speaking, more contemporary records have more significant genealogical content.

Regimental rosters and registers list the members of specific military units and occasionally provide supplemental background information. The 46-volume set *Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War* (more commonly known as the "Brown Books") and the *Roster of Union Soldiers, 1861 to 1865* are just two examples of Civil War registers.

Dating back to colonial times, pensions and bounty land parcels were awarded to servicemen by the federal government for their period of military service. The *Selected Records From Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files* is an example of this type of resource; it contains the initial applications and all other case documents in support of the pension claims. Please note that pension eligibility requirements changed often, according to Congressional legislation. The Library also has pension indexes for other time periods, covering the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Civil War.

Service records are compilations of the various records created during a serviceman's military career, including muster rolls, enlistment papers, prisoner of war papers, and other miscellaneous reports and files. The Library of Michigan has microfilmed indexes to compiled service records for the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, many of the Civil War Union states (including Michigan) and more. These *Indexes to Compiled Service Records* refer the researcher directly to the service record available from the National Archives.

Official military records are permanently housed in the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., and can be requested directly by using one of their standardized forms. Records for servicemen generated within the last seventy-five years are protected by privacy laws and are closed to the public; access to them is restricted to the service person, the next of kin if the veteran is deceased, or researchers with a signed release.

By utilizing the resources discussed above and many more available at the Library, military research does not have to be a lost cause! If you have any questions about the use of U.S. military records in your family history research, please contact the Public Services Division at the Library of Michigan at (517) 373-1300 or by email at librarian@michigan.gov.

Otsego Residents Reminisce About World War II

As reported in the Kalamazoo Gazette

Otsego residents brought the past to life by sharing their memories at the Otsego Public Library during an open forum held recently to remember life in Otsego during World War II.

A panel of Otsego residents, World War II veterans and two women who remember what life was like on the home front during the war were brought together to discuss their memories of the war, as well as activities that took place in small communities such as Otsego during this time.

"We invited these guests to come in and share their memories, but the entire audience participated as well," said Ryan Wieber, Otsego Library Director. "We also had displays set up with memorabilia from Otsego during the war, as well as a table set up with photos of all the local boys who were lost in the war, donated by the local Veterans of Foreign War Post 3030."

Wieber said that everyone had interesting stories to share during the evening and that many in the audience, which included more than 60 people of varying ages, also took part in the conversation.

Panelist Fred Campbell, who served in the Army during WWII, discussed his landing at Normandy and his two-year march across Germany. Campbell said he remembers the distinct sound of bullets over his head and how it reminded him of buzzing bees.

Another panelist, Henry "Rocky" Rockafellow, served in the Marines in the Pacific theater of the war. Rockafellow discussed the devastating destruction of the USS Franklin, as well as the fact that he served for 39 months straight without any leave time.

Al Bronson talked about his time in the Navy during the war. Betty Tishhouse and Beverly Watson remembered rationing, rolling bandages and collecting tin cans as well as foil from gum and cigarette wrappers. Fred Kesley talked about how this foil was used to throw off Japanese radar. "Fred told us that he remembers dropping handfuls of tinfoil out of airplanes to throw off the radar used by the Japanese," Wieber said.

"This program was really like a conversation about Otsego's past. Everyone who had a memory about the war or Otsego during this time was able to share it, and we all learned from one another," Wieber said.

Library of Michigan's Quality Measures Subcommittees Underway

by Martha S. McKee, QSAC Project Coordinator

Earlier this year, State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau established a Quality Services Advisory Committee (QSAC), whose mission is to develop measurable guidelines that will serve as benchmarks for public libraries to promote quality service in Michigan.

QSAC established six areas of library service to cover all aspects of quality service for public libraries. Over 50 library directors, cooperative directors, trustees and specialists in electronic resources, human resources, continuing education, teaching and public services volunteered to help draft guidelines in these areas.

"We now begin the meat and potatoes portion of our mission," said Martha McKee, QSAC Project Coordinator. "After absorbing a large packet of background material, the subcommittee members are ready to go to work."

Meeting at various locations and dates, the subcommittees will recommend three levels of service as outlined below. Each level will apply to all libraries, regardless of size:

Essential Services: These standards are the basics of all library service. They are relatively low-cost standards that every library can and should achieve. They are helpful to libraries starting out and a review for those who are established. This will be known as the Bronze Level.

Enhanced Services: These standards are more of a stretch to achieve. They require more funding than the previous level and start where the Essential Services leave off. This will be known as the Silver Level.

Excellent Services: These standards call for the highest level of service attainable. They are a stretch for any library and require funding and commitment to superb service at every level. This will be known as the Gold Level.

The six subcommittees and their members are:

Personnel/Human Resources

Stephanie M. Olson, Director (Chair)	Iosco-Arenac District Library	V	White Pine
Martha Custer, Director	Baldwin Public Library	V	TLN
Carol Lingeman, Director	Sterling Heights Library	V	TLN
Valerie McNiff, Director	Genesee District Library System	VI	Midwestern
Kathleen Mosher, Director	Kalkaska County Library	IV	Mid-Mich
Bob Raz, Director	Grand Rapids Public Library	VI	Lakeland
Karrie Waarala, Continuing Education Specialist	Library of Michigan		
Susan E. Warner, Director	Wolverine Community Library	I	Northland

Governance/Administration

Stephen Kershner, Executive Director (Chair)	Michigan Library Association		
Phyllis Clark, Director	Lapeer County Library	V	Midwestern
Sandra Knes, Director	Loutit District Library	V	Lakeland
Babs Krause, Trustee	East Lansing Public Library	VI	Capital
Metta Lansdale, Director	Chelsea District Library	IV	TLN
Rosemary Orlando, Assistant Director	St. Clair Shores Public Library	VI	Suburban
Nyama Reed, Director	Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library	III	Midwestern
Kathleen Zaenger, Director	Howell District Library	VI	TLN

Services Offered/Populations Served/Collection Development

Martha McKee, Project Coordinator (Chair)	Library of Michigan		
Gerry Barlage	Plymouth District Library	V	TLN
Clara Bohrer, Director	West Bloomfield Township Public Library	VI	TLN
Charlaine Ezell, CEO	The Extra Edge		
Kathleen A. Hepker, Director	Hudson Public Library	II	Woodlands
Karen Keller, Librarian	Brighton District Library	V	TLN
Mary Kynast, Director	Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library	IV	Southwest
Ward A. MacCready, Director	Sunfield District Library	I	Capital
Mary Rzepczynski, Public Services Librarian	Delta Township District Library	V	Capital
Linda Sickles, Director	Orion Township Public Library	IV	TLN
Jacqueline Skinner, Public Services Librarian	Otsego County Library	IV	Northland
Julie Toole, Librarian	Ruth Hughes Memorial District Library	III	Midwestern
Christine Yurgaite, Branch Librarian	Clio Area Library, Genesee District Library	VI	Midwestern

Facilities & Equipment

Elizabeth A. Nordin, Director (Chair)	Hesperia Public Library	II	Lakeland
Pamela R. Christensen, Director	Peter White Public Library	V	Superior
Marney Cooley, Director	Flat Rock Public Library	III	TLN
Deborah Herber, Trustee	Jackson District Library	VI	Capital
Ben Huffman, Director	Barryton Public Library	I	Mid-Michigan
Paul T. McCann, Director	Dexter District Library	III	Capital
Lora Pasheilich, Director	Schoolcraft Community Library	II	Lakeland
Pamela Vanderploeg	Kent District Library	VI	Lakeland

Technology

Christine Hage, Director (Chair)	Clinton-Macomb Public Library	VI	TLN
Alida Geppert, Director	Southwest Michigan Library Cooperative		
Evelyn Holzwarth, Head of Technical Processes	Marshall District Library	IV	Woodlands
Katie Bell Moore, Head of Specialized Services	Novi Public Library	VI	TLN
Juliane Morian, North Branch Librarian	Clinton-Macomb Public Library	VI	TLN
Kathy Petlewski, Electronic Resources Librarian	Plymouth District Library	V	TLN
Karen Sherrard, Director	Albion Public Library	IV	Woodlands
Ryan Wieber, Director	Otsego District Library	IV	Southwest

Public Relations/Marketing

Don Green, Trustee (Chair)	Clinton-Macomb Public Library	VI	TLN
Barbara Brewer, Director	Mid-Peninsula Library Cooperative		
Carla Caretto, Reference Librarian	Oxford Public Library	III	TLN
Jon Cawthorne, Assist. Director for the Main Library	Detroit Public Library	VI	Detroit
Meg King-Sloan, Director	Comstock Township Library	III	Southwest
Roger Mendel, Director	Mideastern Library Cooperative		
Nanette Miller, Director	Boyne District Library	II	Northland
Rita Paniccia, Director	Roseville Public Library	VI	Suburban
Penny Peterson, Librarian	Orion Township Public Library	IV	TLN

The recommended guidelines are due at the State Librarian's office on Monday, July 8, 2002. If you want to add your thoughts and comments to a subcommittee's work, please contact the chair or one of the members you know. You may also send them to Martha McKee at or or call (517) 241-2697.

Continued from page 1

New access option for MeL electronic magazines, ebooks and more

Now Michigan residents can use their driver's license or state ID to connect to the MeL databases from home or work. Once they have logged on users will be able to move from one database to another without having to re-enter their license number or other password.

What's next for the Michigan eLibrary?

Next for Michigan eLibrary will be the ability for users to access the statewide resource sharing service that the Action Team for Library Advancement Statewide (ATLAS) has been working on. MeL users will see a gradual implementation of the various components of the plan ATLAS has been developing. These will include enhancements to the MeL portal, access to digitized collections, addition of a patron initiated interlibrary loan service, and a comprehensive statewide delivery service. Training and public relations will be parts of the overall plan.

The first of the enhancements is already underway with the new drivers license authentication software, as described previously in this article.

The next step in the process will be for the Michigan Library Consortium (MLC) to deliver the implementation plan to State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau. The plan will address each of the components mentioned above. Once the plan has been accepted and reviewed, the state librarian will determine the timetable for proceeding. Vendors for the project, including the portal, the interlibrary loan system, and the delivery system will be chosen through a defined procurement process that will include input from librarians from around the state.

At this time, funding has not yet been identified. However, we believe that our chances of securing funding is greatly enhanced by developing our implementation plan as fully as possible. We hope that we can continue our forward momentum through the fall and into 2003.

With the addition of the MeL Lending Library, Michigan residents will have access to an exceptional array of library and information resources. From free Web resources to full-text online magazine articles to books and materials in the state's libraries, residents will be able to find the right resources, when they need them, where they need them, and in the format they need.

50 Essential Michigan History Books

The following list of 50 essential works of Michigan history was selected by a team of noted historians assembled by the Department of History, Arts and Libraries and Randy Riley, Special Collections Manager for the Library of Michigan.

Armour, David A. and Keith R. Widder. *At the Crossroads: Michilimackinac During the American Revolution*. Mackinac Island, MI: Mackinac Island State Park Commission, 1986.

Bogue, Margaret Beattie. *Fishing the Great Lakes: An Environmental History, 1783-1933*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2000.

Brehm, Victoria, ed. *The Women's Great Lakes Reader*. Duluth, MN: Holy Cow! Press, 1998.

Buley, R. Carlyle. *The Old Northwest: Pioneer Period, 1815-1840*. 2 vols. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1950.

Carson, Gerald. *Cornflake Crusade*. New York: Rinehart, 1957.

Catton, Bruce. *Waiting for the Morning Train: An American Boyhood*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1987.

Cleland, Charles E. *Rites of Conquest: The History and Culture of Michigan's Native Americans*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1992.

Clifton, James A., George L. Cornell, and James M. McClurken. *People of the Three Fires: The Ottawa, Potawatomi and Ojibway of Michigan*. Grand Rapids, MI: Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council, 1986.

Clive, Alan. *State of War: Michigan in World War II*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1979.

Darden, Joe T. *Detroit, Race and Uneven Development*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1987.

Dunbar, Willis F. *All Aboard! A History of Railroads in Michigan*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1969.

Dunbar, Willis F. and George S. May. *Michigan: A History of the Wolverine State*. 3rd rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: W. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1995.

Dunnigan, Brian Leigh. *Frontier Metropolis: Picturing Early Detroit, 1701-1838*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2001.

Eckert, Kathryn Bishop. *Buildings of Michigan*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Fine, Sidney. *"Expanding The Frontiers of Civil Rights": Michigan, 1948-1968*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2000.

Fine, Sidney. *Frank Murphy*. 3 vols. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1975-1984.

Fine, Sidney. *Sit-down: The General Motors Strike of 1936-1937*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1969.

Fine, Sidney. *Violence in the Model City: The Cavanagh Administration, Race Relations, and the Detroit Riot of 1967*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1989.

Formisano, Ronald P. *The Birth of Mass Political Parties in Michigan, 1827-1861*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1971.

Gilpin, Alec R. *The Territory of Michigan, 1805-1837*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1970.

Gilpin, Alec R. *The War of 1812 in the Old Northwest*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1958.

Gray, Susan E. *The Yankee West: Community Life on the Michigan Frontier*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996.

Halsey, John, ed. and Michael Stafford, assoc. ed. *Retrieving Michigan's Buried Past: The Archeology of the Great Lakes State*. Bloomfield Hills, MI: Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1999.

Holli, Melvin G. *Reform in Detroit: Hazen S. Pingree and Urban Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1969.

Hyde, Charles K. and colored photographs by Ann and John Mahan. *The Northern Lights: Lighthouses of the Upper Great Lakes*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1995.

Jager, Ronald. *Eighty Acres: Elegy for a Family Farm*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1990.

Karamanski, Theodore J. *Deep Woods Frontier: A History of Logging in Northern Michigan*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1989.

Katzman, David M. *Before the Ghetto: Black Detroit in the Nineteenth Century*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1973.

Kestenbaum, Justin L., ed. *The Making of Michigan, 1820-1860: A Pioneer Anthology*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1990.

Kilar, Jeremy W. *Michigan's Lumbertowns: Lumbermen and Laborers in Saginaw, Bay City, and Muskegon, 1870-1905*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1990.

Klunder, Willard Carl. *Lewis Cass and the Politics of Moderation*. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1996.

Lankton, Larry D. *Cradle to Grave: Life, Work, and Death at the Lake Superior Copper Mines*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991.

Lewis, David L. *The Public Image of Henry Ford: An American Folk Hero and His Company*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1976.

Lichtenstein, Nelson. *The Most Dangerous Man in Detroit: Walter Reuther and the Fate of American Labor*. New York: Basic Books, 1995.

Mason, Philip P. *Rumrunning and the Roaring Twenties: Prohibition on the Michigan–Ontario Waterway*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1995.

May, George S. *A Most Unique Machine: The Michigan Origins of the American Automobile Industry*. Grand Rapids, MI: W. E. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1974.

Nevins, Allan and Frank E. Hill. *Ford*. 3 vols. New York: Scribner, 1954–1963.

Peckham, Howard H. *Pontiac and the Indian Uprising*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1994.

Romig, Walter. *Michigan Place Names: The History of the Founding and the Naming of More Than Five Thousand Past and Present Michigan Communities*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1986.

Sugrue, Thomas J. *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Tanner, Helen Hornbeck, ed. *Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987.

Thomas, Richard W. *Life for Us Is What We Make It: Building Black Community in Detroit, 1915–1945*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992.

Thompson, Mark L. *Steamboats and Sailors of the Great Lakes*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1991.

Turner, Arthur W. *Strangers and Sojourners: A History of Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1994.

Vander Hill, C. Warren. *Settling the Great Lakes Frontier: Immigration to Michigan, 1837–1924*. Lansing: Michigan Historical Commission, 1970.

Vinyard, JoEllen McNergney. *For Faith and Fortune: The Education of Catholic Immigrants in Detroit, 1805–1925*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1998.

Weeks, George. *Stewards of the State: The Governors of Michigan*. 2nd rev. ed. Detroit: *Detroit News*; Ann Arbor: Historical Society of Michigan, 1991.

White, Richard. *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650–1815*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Woodford, Arthur M. *This Is Detroit, 1701–2001*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2001.

Zunz, Olivier. *The Changing Face of Inequality: Urbanization, Industrial Development, and Immigrants in Detroit, 1880–1920*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982.

The panel of reviewers who selected this list includes Dr. William M. Anderson, Director of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries; Dr. Frank Boles, Director of the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University; Sandra Clark, Director of the Michigan Historical Center; Dr. Brian Dunnigan, Curator for the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan; Dr. Sidney Fine, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Michigan; Dr. Charles Hyde, Director of the Great Lakes Series for the Department of History at Wayne State University; Dr. Larry Lankton, Professor of Social Science at Michigan Technological University; Dr. Russell Magnaghi, Professor of History at Northern Michigan University; Dr. Philip P. Mason, Distinguished Professor of History at Wayne State University; Larry Massie, Historian and Storyteller from Allegan; Robert M. Money, Professor of History at Lake Superior State University; Gordon Olson, City Historian for Grand Rapids Public Library; Randy Riley, Special Collections Manager for the Library of Michigan; Dr. Roger L. Rosentreter, Editor of *Michigan History* magazine; Dr. Jo Ellen Vinyard, Professor of History at Eastern Michigan University; Larry Wagenaar, Director of the Historical Society of Michigan; Dr. Robert M. Warner, Professor Emeritus of History and Information Studies at the University of Michigan; Dr. Benjamin C. Wilson, Director of Africana Studies at Western Michigan University.

Discover Fun, History at the Michigan Historical Museum

by Diana Engle, Michigan Historical Museum

Tired of the same-old, same-old during the summer? Then load the family in the car and head out to the Michigan Historical Museum to discover how fun history can be!

The Michigan Historical Museum (MHM) and the Library of Michigan (LM) have been neighbors in the same Lansing facility for many years. Last year, the two agencies became partners within the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries. The MHM is not one museum but a system of eleven distinct museums located throughout the state.

The flagship museum in Lansing features four floors of permanent exhibits that take visitors on an exploration of the full scope of Michigan history, from the days of the state's native peoples through 1975. The museum's temporary exhibit gallery puts a spotlight on a single theme or topic. Featured at the museum through August 16 are *Schooner in the Sand: Unlocking the Secrets of a Great Lakes Shipwreck* and *Apron Strings: Ties to the Past*.

Two MHM branch museums at the heart of the state in Grayling are wonderful destinations in themselves or easy stops on the way to anywhere. The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum offers a first-hand account of one of Franklin Roosevelt's most significant work programs, while Hartwick Pines Logging Museum tells the story of river rats and shanty boys during Michigan's lumber boom in the late 19th century. In the picturesque village of Concord, the Mann House opens the door to herb gardening and other Victorian pastimes. In Michigan's Irish Hills region, Walker Tavern recreates the state's early-19th-century settlement era. And in Michigan's Thumb, the Sanilac Petroglyphs are a link to the natives who carved pictures into rock perhaps as long as 1,000 years ago.

Michigan's rich history continues in the Upper Peninsula, where five more MHM branch museums delight visitors. The Copper Harbor Lighthouse and Fort Wilkins offer a look at life in Michigan's desolate frontier during the mid-19th century. At Fayette Historic Townsite, visitors walk among the buildings of an abandoned late-19th-century iron-smelting town. The Father Marquette National Memorial honors the French missionary who founded St. Ignace. The Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee celebrates the people, communities and companies that helped Michigan lead the nation in iron-ore production during the 19th century.

Each museum offers a convenient summer schedule and family friendly programs and activities. Best of all, admission is free! To learn more about each museum and its full slate of activities, visit www.michiganhistory.org or call (517) 373-3559.

Award-Winning Michigan.gov Expands Availability of Online Services

By Jim Wieber, Michigan Department of Information Technology

The award-winning state web portal, Michigan.gov, just keeps getting better, making it an increasingly useful tool in helping patrons find the information they need. Over 100 online business, consumer and educational services are now available to citizens 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Information and services are organized by customer need, not state agency, making it easier for citizens to find what they want without having to know which specific agency provides the information or service. For example, visitors can search across all agencies at once by simply typing in a "plain-English" question where indicated.

Another way citizens can quickly find information is by clicking on any of the six TOPICS buttons of their particular interest, located at the left side of the Michigan.gov Home Page. These TOPICS buttons are Education and Career Development; Family, Health and Safety; Travel and Recreation; Business Services; Michigan Government; and Licensing, Certification and Permits.

Here are examples of the nearly 100 new online services available at Michigan.gov:

- Listings of day care providers and licensed nursing and adult foster care homes
- Michigan's Domestic Violence Resource Directory
- Offender Tracking Information System
- MiChild/Healthy Kids Online Screening and Applications
- Long term care portal
- Online license renewals
- Detailed information about individual public and charter schools (K-12) in Michigan
- MI School Information Online
- MI Scholarships Online
- Business Name Availability Search and Michigan Business Entity Search
- Online Business Startup
- Online Economic Profiler and Online Business Incentive Profiler

Now, more than ever, visitors to Michigan.gov are using the portal to find information and conduct business with the state. In fact, they are viewing nearly three times as many pages per day than they did at the previous state website.

Not only are customers noticing, the nation is noticing. In April, Michigan.gov received the Computerworld Honors Award. In a recent major survey of all State portals, Brown University ranked Michigan.gov as #2 in the nation. In January 2002, Governor Engler also announced that Michigan placed in the Top 10 in the 2001 Digital State Survey for excellence in online government services delivery.

Web Site-ings

by Lucy Roehrig, Library of Michigan Reference Librarian & Knowledge Seeker

Celebrating United States History...

American Civil War Homepage
<http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/warweb.html>

American History & Government Hotlist
<http://sln.fi.edu/tfi/hotlists/government.html>

Avalon Project at the Yale Law School - American History: A Documentary Record
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/chrono.htm>

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
<http://www.gliah.uh.edu/index.cfm>

Great American Speeches
<http://www.pbs.org/greatspeeches/timeline/index.html>

History Net - American History
<http://americanhistory.about.com/>

Journal of American History (some full text)
<http://www.indiana.edu/~jah/>

Library of Congress - American Memory Project
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ammemhome.html>

Library of Congress - America's Story
<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi>

Michigan Electronic Library-
United States History Resources
<http://mel.org/humanities/history/HIST-us.html>
Historical Documents
<http://mel.org/humanities/history/HIST-docs.html>

National Archives & Records Administration - Exhibit Hall
<http://www.nara.gov/exhall/exhibits.html>

PBS online

-U.S. History for Kids
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/kids/index.html>
-History (includes photos, transcripts of various programs, online presentations and other resources)
<http://www.pbs.org/neighborhoods/history/>

Presidents of the United States
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/>

Rutgers University Libraries - American & British History Resources
http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/rr_gateway/research_guides/history/history.shtml

Smithsonian: National Museum of American History
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/>

United States Information Agency - Outline of American History
<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/history/toc.htm>

University of Kansas-
United States History Index
<http://www.ku.edu/history/VL/USA/>
Documents of the Study of American History
http://www.ku.edu/carrie/docs/amdocs_index.html

University of Oklahoma, College of Law - Chronology of U.S. Historical Documents
<http://www.law.ou.edu/hist/>

Women in American History
<http://women.eb.com/>

Kalamazoo Public Library Named Library of the Year

by Marti Fritz, Community Relations Manager, Kalamazoo Public Library

Kalamazoo Public Library was honored as the national Gale Group/Library Journal Library of the Year 2002 at a gala reception during the annual American Library Association conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on June 17, 2002. This award is the library equivalent of the Oscar in the motion picture industry. The Library of the Year Award honors the library that most profoundly demonstrates outstanding service to its community. Kalamazoo Public Library will receive \$10,000 and be featured as the cover story in the June 15 issue of Library Journal.

The Gale Group, a business unit of multinational Thomson Corporation and a world leader in electronic information publishing, and Library Journal, the oldest independent national library publication and the 'bible' of the library profession, sponsor the Library of the Year Award.

A national panel of renowned names in marketing, publishing, and library services judged the nominations. The award is based on three key factors: service to the community, creativity and innovation in developing specific community programs, and leadership in developing specific programs that other libraries can emulate.

Judges noted KPL's investment in technology infrastructure, the library's many partnerships, especially Ready to Read, the library's early childhood literacy program, and the Kalamazoo County Law Library, housed in the Central Library downtown. Also cited were the library's bold steps to become a district library and establish legislation that could be used by other libraries in the state to do likewise, as well as KPL's establishment of reciprocal borrowing agreements with nearby libraries if their communities support the library with at least 1 mill of library tax. This has been the impetus for other libraries to pass successful millage elections.

Kalamazoo Public Library credits this national recognition to the support of the whole community. Kalamazoo citizens have always supported the library and have chosen to do so at the highest rate allowed by law, generating one of the highest supports per capita in the nation. This is especially telling in a community that is economically challenged. This support has enabled the library to provide a level of services envied by communities across Michigan and the nation.

The award also affirms the strong investment and participation in civic, arts and cultural life by Kalamazoo citizens, as reflected in the high level of dollars raised for arts and cultural organizations, community gifts to the United Way, support of local foundations, and volunteer hours worked in the community. It is in this atmosphere that the library has thrived and been enabled to provide services that benefit everyone.

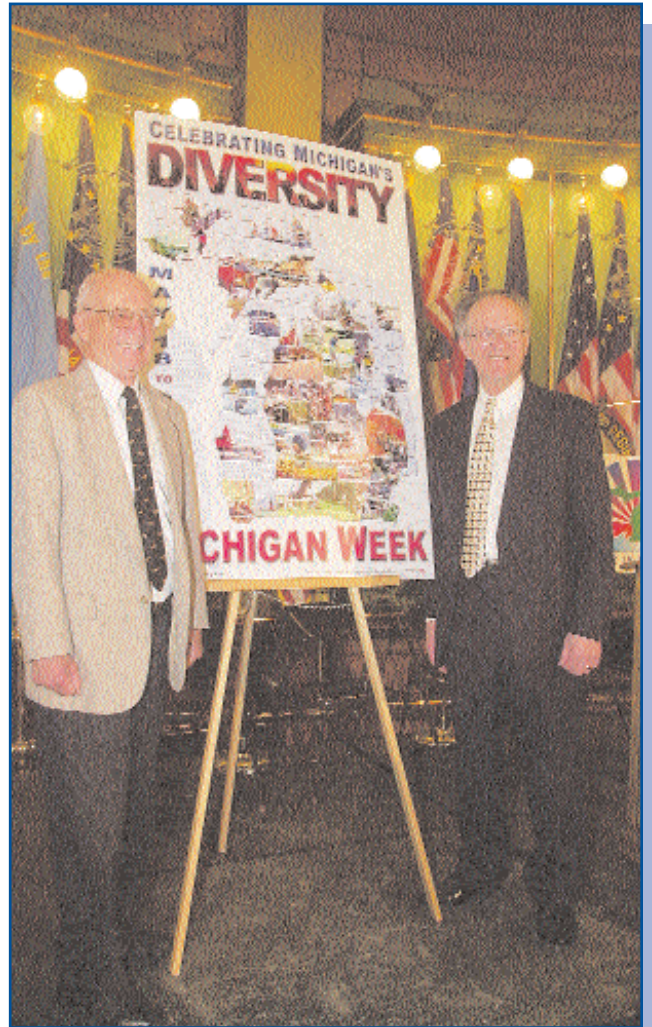
Ernie Harwell Visits Library of Michigan

by Casey Kremers, Department of History, Arts and Libraries

Legendary broadcaster Ernie Harwell and his agent are such big fans of libraries that, during a recent visit to Lansing for the Michigan Week kickoff, they asked for a tour of the Library of Michigan, despite a very crowded schedule. Harwell served as celebrity chair of this year's Michigan Week and was the featured speaker at the kickoff celebration on May 20 at the State Capitol.

Ernie Harwell's late brother, Richard, was a college librarian and published writer. During his career, he worked for the libraries of many institutions, including Duke University, Emory University, Bowdoin College, Smith College and the University of Georgia. He also worked for the American Library Association, as Executive Secretary of the Association of College and Research Librarians. He also authored and edited numerous books, many relating to Civil War history.

Ernie Harwell himself is the author of several books about baseball, including *Stories From My Life in Baseball*, published in 2001.



Ernie Harwell (left) and Dr. William Anderson, Director of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries

Newspaper Microfilming Set to Begin

by Kevin Driedger, Michigan Newspaper Project

The Michigan Newspaper Project (MNP) will begin microfilming Michigan's deteriorating newspapers in July. After several years of cataloging newspapers throughout the state, MNP is now ready to start preserving those titles that are not already on microfilm. The staff of the Project have traveled throughout the state and identified more than 3,700 newspaper titles published in more than 500 Michigan communities. Many of these titles have never been filmed, and the paper they are printed on is increasingly fragile, yellow, and in danger of being discarded.

Microfilming will not only preserve the content from the ravages of time, but also will make these titles more accessible to researchers. The microfilming phase of the Project will take place at the Clarke Historical Library on the Campus of Central Michigan University. The Clarke Library has a long history of microfilming newspapers and has expanded their facilities for this project.

Because the amount of unfilmed newspaper is more than money and time allow to be filmed, a selection committee will be formed to determine which titles should be filmed. Criteria will include research value, geographic representation, temporal representation, as well as length of run, physical condition and accessibility.

Copies of the newly filmed newspapers will be held at both the Clarke Historical Library and the Library of Michigan. The Library of Michigan's microfilm also will be available for interlibrary loan.

The Library of Michigan will continue its involvement in the MNP by providing cataloging and reference support.

The Michigan Newspaper Project is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and organized by the Library of Congress. Questions for the Project at the Library of Michigan can be directed to kdriedger@michigan.gov, and microfilming related questions can be directed to the Clarke Historical Library at Clarke@cmich.edu.

SBPH - Adaptive Technology On Display

by Andrew Wilson, SBPH Services and Data Analyst

Residents of Michigan had two wonderful opportunities in April and May to view and test out the latest in adaptive technology as well as meet with organizations who serve blind and visually handicapped individuals. Adaptive technology is any item that will improve or increase the functional abilities of individuals with disabilities. This year's Adaptive Technology Vendor Fairs took place in Ann Arbor and Grand Blanc.

On April 17, the Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled held their second Vendor Fair in the Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College. "Visions 2002" was attended by more than 1,200 individuals eager to see what the more than 45 exhibitors had to offer. Exhibitors, who displayed many items and services, included computer hardware and software companies (Freedom Scientific, GW Micro), service animal organizations (Leader Dogs for the Blind, Paws with a Cause), and other agencies (WKAR Radio Talking Book, AudioVision Canada).

On May 8, the Mideastern Michigan Talking Book Center held their first Vendor Fair at the McFarlen Library in Grand Blanc. Over 13 vendors displayed their wares to more than 150 attendees. Exhibitors included Artic Technologies, Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service and Recordings for Recovery.

Hot products featured at the fairs included a portable, talking Global Positioning System (GPS) for blind individuals to help them navigate through their community and the world, and a swivel-arm Closed Circuit Television (CCTV).

Scott Norris, Adaptive Technology Coordinator for the Library of Michigan, was pleased by the number of attendees who approached him, excited about the products available. "One woman told me that by using a CCTV 'Now I can read the letters I receive in the mail, something I haven't been able to do in a long time,'" he said.

For more information about adaptive technology, contact Scott Norris at (517) 373-5516 or scottn@library-ofmichigan.org.

British Library Investigates the Library of Michigan's Incunable

by Tim Watters, Special Collections Cataloger

John Goldfinch of the British Library recently contacted the Library of Michigan's Nancy R. Robertson, Rare Book Curator and Technical Services Director, regarding the Library of Michigan's copy of *Statham's Abridgement of the Law*. This book was printed circa 1490 in Rouens, France, and is the Library's only incunable. An incunable is a book printed between the time of the Gutenberg Bible (circa 1455) and the year 1500. Approximately 27,500 incunabula editions are estimated to exist in the world, and since 1980, the British Library has been compiling a database of these known incunabula in the "Incunabula Short Title Catalogue" (ISTC). The ISTC contains information on nearly all recorded editions, ranging from large volumes to single sheet advertisements and indulgences. Current locations of these items are also listed if they can be verified, as has been done for the item held by the Library of Michigan. Permission was granted to include information on the book in the ISTC, which is maintained on a database at the British Library in London.

The word "incunabula" comes from the Latin word for things from the cradle and can also refer to the very first stages of anything. The social impact of incunabula has been compared to the effect of the Internet today. Misinformation on the Internet is a source of complaint, just as the incunabula were for people such as the Chancellor of the University of Paris. Along with others from his time, he was disturbed that errors in printed materials are repeated in every copy, whereas handwritten manuscripts were often compared and corrected. Paper was also criticized for not lasting as long as skins. According to one account of the library of Duke Federigo of Urbino, "all books were superlatively good and written with the pen; had there been one printed book, it would have been ashamed in such company." Also, just as the computer has had the opposite effect of the predicted paperless society, printing initially resulted in more people's creating handwritten manuscripts from the printed editions. An essay on this topic is presented by James J. O'Donnell of the University of Pennsylvania at <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jod/sanmarino.html>.



Foundation Update

by Sarah D. Watkins, Executive Director
Library of Michigan Foundation

It's been a great and productive year! March of 2001 was the last time we offered an update on the "state of the Foundation." We would like to fill you in on what we've done since then. The Foundation staff and board of directors have worked hard to bring renewed energy, visibility, viability and direction to the Foundation. Our updated list of recent accomplishments reflects favorably and positively on what has been achieved.

Since July of 2001 we've:

- Established a Grant Distribution and Review Committee
- Established joint funding priorities between the Library of Michigan and the Foundation
- Increased the volume of access to our website from 1,090 to 5,608 (comparison of hits June 2000 to August 2001)
- Created and presented the Library of the Future at the State Capitol
- Held the 3rd Annual Luncheon held at the W. K. Kellogg Center featuring Mike Artell
- Created a marketing survey and compiled the results
- Showcased the Foundation at our booth during Michigan Library Association's annual conference
- Hosted the State Librarians Excellence Reception at the state library for attendees of the Michigan Library Association annual conference
- Presented the first ever State Librarians Excellence Award
- Presented two first ever State Librarians Citations of Excellence
- Created and established a new development plan for the Foundation
- Created and mailed our 3rd annual Thanksgiving card 2002
- Prepared and mailed our 3rd annual Fall Appeal 2002
- Created and distributed Foundation Focus: A 2000-2001 Yearbook
- Established the area of Genealogy as our focus for fundraising for the next 12 months
- Sent Requests for Proposals to architects for the rare book room project
- Selected Quinn Evans as the architect for the Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room
- Increased marketing of the Library of Michigan and the Foundation through events, displays, print media and mailing

- Distributed a variety of promotional items
- Began planning for a collection naming and gift opportunities program
- Established a Genealogy Ad Hoc Committee
- Published several *Access* articles featuring Foundation donors
- Hosted lunches and library tours with donors and prospective donors
- Hosted the 3rd annual Kickoff Reception for Library staff for State Employees Combined Campaign
- Established an endowment fund to support Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
- Named the genealogy endowment the Carole Callard Genealogy Endowment Fund
- Made grants to support:
- Beginning Workshop
- Read Across America
- Mahoney Children's Workshop
- Fyan Continuing Education Scholarships
- Read Indeed! Adult Literacy Grant Program
- Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
- Mary Hill Arbutnot Honor Lecture Award

Established in 1985, the Library of Michigan Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, public charity governed by an independent Board of Directors. The Foundation exists to provide opportunities for charitable giving to benefit the Library and to provide funding for Library programs and projects otherwise not provided through state or federal funding.



kids Korner



by Kristine Tardiff, Youth Services Specialist

Let me share with you a few facts about early brain development: Brain development begins soon after conception. At birth, a child has 100 billion brain cells (neurons) and 50 trillion connections (synapses). Early childhood experiences exert a dramatic impact and physically determine how the brain is “wired.” In the first months of life, the number of synapses increases 20 times to more than 1,000 trillion synapses. Early sensory experi-

ences create new synapses, and repetitions of experiences strengthen them. Growth continues, and a single neuron can connect with as many as 15,000 other neurons. A three-year-old child has twice as many connections as an adult. The number of connections could easily go up or down by 25 percent or more, depending upon whether a child grows up in an enriched environment. Some researchers, according to the April 17, 1997 *New York Times*, believe “the number of words an infant hears each day is the single most important predictor of later intelligence, school success, and social competence.”

I share this information with you because, as many of you know, early brain stimulation is vital to healthy brain development in babies and infants. Did you know that library staff play a crucial role in applying what is known about brain research to their own libraries and in helping educate parents about the role they play as their child’s first teacher? Infants need a stimulating environment to capitalize on this early rapid brain development. Parents and child-care providers need information on how to foster early learning opportunities through play, talk, stories and other activities.

Some of you attended the recent Library of Michigan/Head Start-State Collaboration Program workshop, “Lapsit Services for the Very Young” in Detroit, Clare and Marquette. Our presenter, Linda Ernst, a children’s librarian with the King County Library System in Washington State, spent nearly two hours telling the participants how incredibly a baby’s brain works and why it is so important that a baby have rich literacy experiences right from the start. For another three hours, Ms. Ernst demonstrated proven techniques to stimulate a baby’s brain, such as singing, rhymes, games, play, motion, reading and repetition.

These experiences are not just for babies, but for parents and caregivers as well. Linda stressed that adults need to take what they learn in these lapsit programs and continue to work with their babies on a daily basis at home. She reassured over-worked library staff and Head Start teachers that you need only develop one lapsit program per year and repeat it monthly. Babies and parents/caregivers need the repetition. In fact, for baby, repetition is what helps build strong neuron connections and helps to form memory as they learn new skills.

Many of you may wonder where to begin. You might have your hands full with preschool programs, and the thought of fitting in another program seems impossible, especially programs for babies 6 months to 24 months of age. Lapsit programs for the very young require special planning and materials; you most likely cannot use materials and activities developed for your preschoolers and adapt them for babies and infants.

A good place to start your search for recommended materials and activities for babies and infants is Linda Ernst’s books, *Lapsit Services for the Very Young*, 1995 and *Lapsit Services for the Very Young II*, 2001 (Neal-Schuman Publishers). Her first book, *Lapsit Services for the Very Young*, is most helpful for those library staff just beginning to think about why baby/infant programs should be offered and how to design and present them.

Other good books to help with getting started on offering lapsit programs are: *Babies Need Books: Sharing the Joy of Books with Your Child from Birth to Six* (Dorothy Butler); *125 Brain Games for Toddlers and Twos* (Jackie Silberg); *Literate Beginnings: programs for Babies and Toddlers* (Debby Ann Jeffery); and *Mother Goose Time: Library Programs for Babies and Caregivers* (Jane Marino and Dorothy F. Houlihan).

Some good websites are: Zero to Three (www.zerotothree.org); BrainNet (www.brainnet.wa.gov); I am Your Child (www.iamyourchild.org); and the Public Library Association’s Preschool Literacy Initiative (<http://www.pla.org/projects/preschool/preschool.html>)

Few would dispute the importance of early brain stimulation in babies and infants. A child’s brain is “wired” for success or difficulty in life at an early age. Programs that involve baby and parent/caregiver learning and socializing together are also crucial for an infant’s healthy development. Lapsit programs for the very young not only provide that needed brain stimulation through song, rhyme and play but also instruct parents/caregivers on the types of activities recommended to help their child succeed later in life.

While reaching out to the very young may not be as comfortable as planning and presenting preschool programs, there is a need for programs and services for the very young. Start out slowly, do some research, purchase a few materials to plan your first program and advertise the program in the library. Linda Ernst admits to being terrified when she faced her first lapsit program, but after almost 20 years of presenting programs, she believes that with a little practice and determination, most library staff have it in them to plan and present successful programs for our youngest patrons. It is hard work and it may take some time before you are comfortable with programming for babies and infants, but the effect you have on baby and parent lasts a lifetime.

Meet the Mackinac Island State Park Commission

by Tim Putman, Mackinac State Historic Parks

Mackinac Island State Park Commission (MISPC) - part of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries - protects, preserves and presents Mackinac's rich cultural and natural resources to provide outstanding educational and recreational experiences for the public.

To fulfill its mission, MISPC operates programs of archaeological and historical research, environmental and historic preservation, museum collections, publications and interpretation. The parks employ a diverse group of museum and park staff responsible for the care of 2,700 acres of land, National Historic Landmark buildings, more than one million archaeological and historical artifacts, documents, photographs, museum exhibitions and more.

The seven-member MISPC governs four living history parks and museums in the Straits of Mackinac, collectively known as Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP): Fort Mackinac and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac and Historic Mill Creek in Mackinaw City. The sites are accredited by the American Association of Museums. Fort Mackinac, Mackinac Island and Colonial Michilimackinac are National Historic Landmarks. The parks are open daily mid-May through mid-October, with a combined attendance of 1.2 million people each year.

MISPC was created in 1895 to supervise Mackinac Island State Park, Michigan's first state park. Through acquisition of additional land and buildings, Mackinac Island State Park has grown to over 1,800 acres. The park is open all year, free of charge. Fort Mackinac includes 14 original buildings built by the British military in 1780, as well as several other historic structures. Historic Downtown Mackinac includes six buildings from Mackinac's 1820s fur trade era.

In 1904, MISPC acquired the site of Colonial Michilimackinac, an 18th century French fur trade community and British military outpost in Mackinaw City. In 1960, the Commission began to systematically reconstruct the village according to archaeological and historical research. Each summer, a team of archaeologists continues this work, making it the nation's longest ongoing archaeological dig.

Historic Mill Creek is a 625-acre nature park and water-powered sawmill located on the shore of Lake Huron, 3.5

miles southeast of Mackinaw City. Reconstruction began in 1977, and the park opened in 1984. Visitors meet interpreters dressed as 1820s sawyers, and millwrights run the mill and use its lumber to reconstruct the 1820s Millwright's House.

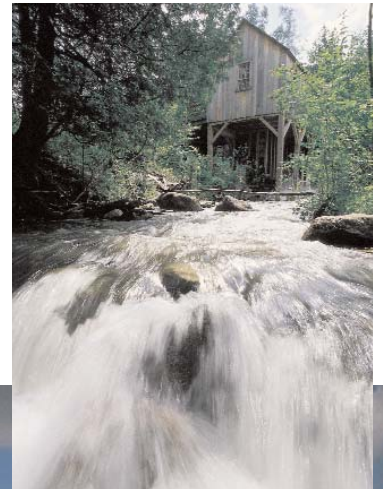
Park staff is currently raising funds and has begun restoration to re-open the 1892 Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse in Mackinaw City.

MISPC owns two facilities for the care of historical collections and to provide research materials for the public: The Petersen Center for History and Archeology in Mackinaw City and the Mackinac Heritage Center on Mackinac Island.

"Historic Mackinac on Tour," MISPC's Education Outreach program, is a traveling, hands-on school program. Other education programs include, "Water, Woods and Wildlife," focusing on natural history, and "Furs, Fish and Birchbark," focusing on Native American history. Costumed interpreters visit more than 11,000 students in 65 schools throughout Michigan each year, teaching Mackinac history. Education packets, videos, slideshows, artifact boxes and curriculum materials are available to teachers, and MISPC encourages school field trips.

MISPC finances the preservation and development of its historic sites largely through the sale of revenue bonds. Bonds are retired and museum operating costs are paid from admission revenues and the proceeds of publication and museum store sales. MISPC supplements these funds by pursuing and winning various private, state and federal grants. The commission receives further support from Mackinac Associates, the parks' friends and fundraising organizations.

Historic Mill Creek in Mackinaw City



Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse in Mackinaw City



Redcoat at Colonial Michilimackinac

**Photos, courtesy Mackinac State Historic Parks*

Grand Rapids Public Library Readers Society Wraps Up Second Season

In just its second year, the Grand Rapids Public Library's Readers Society enrolled some 1,400 participants. The free voluntary program furnishes members with almost a dozen bibliographies and encourages participants to read at least 10 books to be eligible for a prize. Roughly 600 participants turned in their reading records by the April 13 deadline. In addition, hundreds of people attended five programs held at branch locations in conjunction with the Readers Society.

Experts Speak at Bloomfield Township Public Library

In celebration of National Library Week 2002, State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau, Wayne State University Library Science Program Interim Director Dr. Joseph J. Mika, and University of Michigan School of Information Associate Dean Dr. C. Olivia Frost spoke at the Bloomfield Township Public Library. The events helped to promote the "Ultimate Search Engine - Your Librarian," as part of the library's participation in the American Library Association's "@ Your Library" marketing campaign.

Brandau shared her view of the state of Michigan's libraries and predicted an exciting future, with Americans and Michiganders turning to their libraries more than ever in the wake of the terrorism on September 11. Addressing claims that the Internet can provide every answer, she said, "The Internet can be like a junkyard. There are some wonderful gems, but a lot of rubbish. It takes a professional - your librarian - to find the best for you." Drs. Frost and Mika moderated a panel of nine current and recent students of their respective library schools, who discussed the greatly varied curriculum approaches, as well as internships and practical experiences pursued during their graduate education.

Stephen A. Kershner, Director of the Michigan Library Association; A. Michael Deller, Director of The Library Network; State Librarian Christie Pearson Brandau; Karen Kotulis-Carter, Bloomfield Township Public Library Director; Roger Ashley, Director of Michigan Association for Media in Education



Kent District Library's Let It Snow Reading Club: Another Success Story

The Kent District Library Let It Snow (Somewhere Else) Reading Club for Adults, now in its eleventh year, provides the opportunity to recognize avid readers and to encourage adults to read more. The Reading Club requires patrons to read 10 books in 4 months to earn a commemorative mug. Many readers enjoy collecting the mugs with different designs every year. Participants can also take the Reading Challenge by reading 5 additional books for a chance at more great prizes, including a two-night trip. Each year, Let It Snow has become increasingly popular, and last year KDL saw a record number of 4,718 participants.

This year (2001-2002) was no exception, with record numbers once again. About 5,600 registered and 3,244 completed the club, and 1,568 of the completers took the Reading Challenge. A patron from Rockford won the trip. This year's program also included author visits from Robert Morgan last November and Rosellen Brown in February. Recently, over 450 readers from all over West Michigan enjoyed an evening with best selling author Sharyn McCrumb, who appeared at the Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids on April 18.



Best-selling author Sharyn McCrumb helps KDL celebrate reading.



Your 2002 Access Team: standing L-R, Sarah Watkins, Tim Watters, Jenn Houseman, Andrew Wilson, Nancy Whitmer, Lucy Roebrig; seated L-R, Becky Cawley, Karrie Waarala, Jo Budler, Linda Neely. Not pictured, Marnie Elden and Casey Kremers



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**Library of Michigan
State Librarian**

Christie Pearson Brandau

Deputy State Librarian

Jo Budler

Graphic Design/Layout

Marnie M. Elden

Contributing Writers:

Christie Pearson Brandau, Becky Cawley, Kevin Driedger, Diana Engle, Marti Fritz, Casey Kremers, Martha McKee, Linda Neely, Tim Putman, Kris Rzepczynski, Lucy Roehrig, Kristine Tardiff, Tim Watters, Sarah Watkins, Jim Wieber and Andrew Wilson

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heritage, and fostering cultural creativity. The department also includes the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Michigan Film Office, and the Michigan Historical Center.

This publication is available in an alternative format: Braille or audio cassette. Please call 517-373-5614 for more information.

Department Director

Dr. William M. Anderson

Deputy Director

Mark Hoffman

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Casey Kremers, Communications Specialist

Dept. of History, Arts and Libraries

P.O. Box 30738 • Lansing, MI 48909

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